

I'm sick of my sisters feuding

Dear Annie: My oldest and youngest sisters are 10 years apart. They used to be good friends, but in the past three years, something apparently happened and now they can't stand to be in the same room together. At family events, the tension is awful. They can't talk to one another without condescension and sarcasm.

My parents and I are caught in the middle. Each sister comes to me to complain about the other. I have tried to get them to talk it out or call a truce for the sake of the family, but it continues to get worse. My oldest sister will invite everyone for dinner except my youngest sister. Then my youngest sister complains to our mother.

Mom is 86 years old and worries constantly about her daughters. My brother wanted to move back home to help with my parents, but he changed his mind because he didn't want to deal with the bad vibes coming from our other two sisters. No other family members will talk to them about this, because they don't want to hurt their feelings.

I am so sick of this family feud. Is there anything we can do with these selfish adults? — *The Middle Sister*

Annie's Mailbox

Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar



Dear Middle Sister: Does anyone know the original cause of this animosity? Sometimes, a minor problem can become a major rift because it isn't dealt with at the time, so it festers. Could you, your mother, your clergyman or a professional mediator get the two of them in a room together to discuss it?

One common problem with estranged siblings is that they spend years unable to enjoy each other's company, only to regret it when it's too late to fix. You might remind your sisters that they could have less time to repair this than they think. We hope one of them can be the bigger person and make the first move.

Dear Annie: A while back, I read with interest a letter from "Jungle Jim in Indiana," regarding the things men should know if their

wives become incapable of doing common household tasks. What is good for one is good for the other. Please print my list of things a woman should know if her husband were no longer around, or incapable of doing these things. — *Dover, Pennsylvania*

Dear Dover: Thanks. Here it is:

1. Know how to check the fluids in the car (oil, power steering, brake, windshield washer). Also, know how to check the air pressure in the tires and properly wax the car. Or know where to find a reputable mechanic and car wash.
2. Know where the main water shutoff is located in the home in case a pipe bursts.
3. Know where important papers are kept (car titles, insurance papers, deeds, IRA and CD certificates, bonds), as well as retirement information and medical records.
4. Know what to do if the pilot light goes out on the gas stove and who to call if there is a gas leak.
5. Know how to replace the batteries in the smoke detectors/radon detectors in the home and do it every six months.
6. Know where the fuse box is and how to change a fuse.
7. Know how to fix a toilet that has stopped working properly.

Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're too worried about making the right move. Don't think so hard on this one. There will be genius that shows up inside of your action, but you have to take it first to find out. Trust yourself. Move.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Follow your intense desire to figure things out. You won't be able to, not in one day anyway, but that's not the point. Being involved in the puzzle will connect you with others. (SET ITAL) That (END ITAL) is the point!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's someone who makes you feel funnier and more confident. It's no surprise that you want to be around this person. Why wouldn't you want to be around the person who brings out your maximum awesome?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Do you find it strange that your subconscious mind isn't thinking about anything and yet it's totally in control? You'll see evidence of this, and it will inspire you to stop with the over-thinking. Believe that you're enough. You are!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Someone is putting on a show just for you. If you don't think this is true, try walking out of the room and see if that doesn't stop the action. Hopefully you'll find this all to be quite flattering.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People will want you to weigh in on their lives. It's not like they can't make a decision without you; it's just that they prefer to do it with you. More than anything, they crave your attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The truth of the matter is that you're doing a job that's really not your responsibility. You said you would, though, and that is reason enough to follow

through. You'll be lucky when you do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You feel like your life is an open book, but there's more mystery around you than you might have guessed. Keep it that way for a while! Someone is just getting to know you and you can have some fun with this!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you don't like the way a situation is going, throw on the brakes immediately. You're so creative now that you'll be able to come up with several alternatives. Be bold.

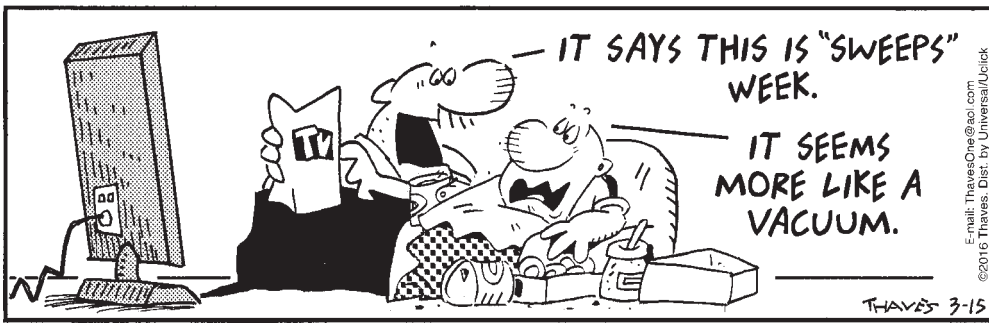
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've an excellent eye for detail. Put in the time it takes to make things look and feel exactly how you want. Believe it or not, being fussy and specific will be very lucky for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your attention will be yanked back to something that seems, upon a cursory look, to be innocuous enough. Something about it isn't quite adding up. Pay attention. If it doesn't feel right, it's not right.

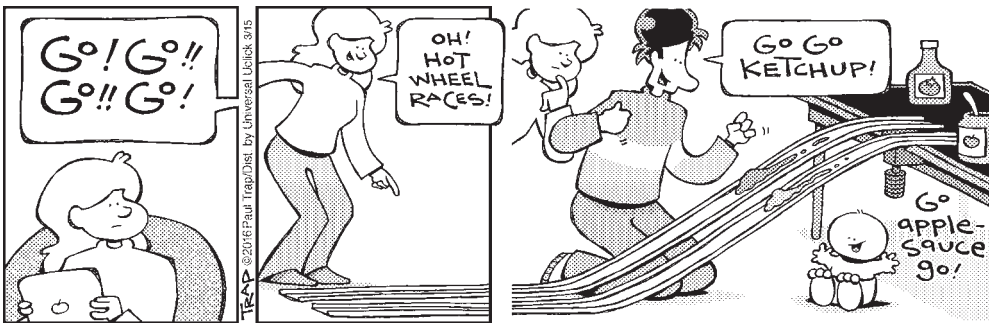
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Why haven't you forgiven yourself yet? The real problem isn't that you messed up; it's that you're not letting yourself move past it. Just let go. There's no reason to be this hard on yourself.

WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 16). You read the hearts and minds of those close to you. You can sense even the quietest anger, fear, joy and elation. You'll employ this skill to make a relationship truly great. A professional advance will lead to a better living situation. You'll make a substantial purchase in July. Your family will grow in September. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 39, 20, 11 and 14.

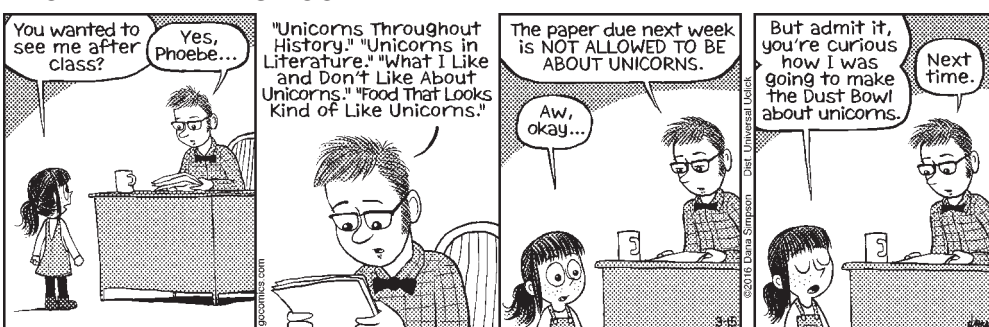
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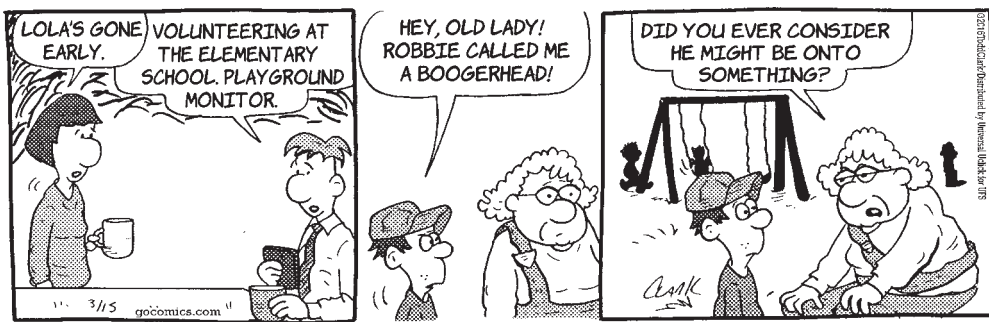
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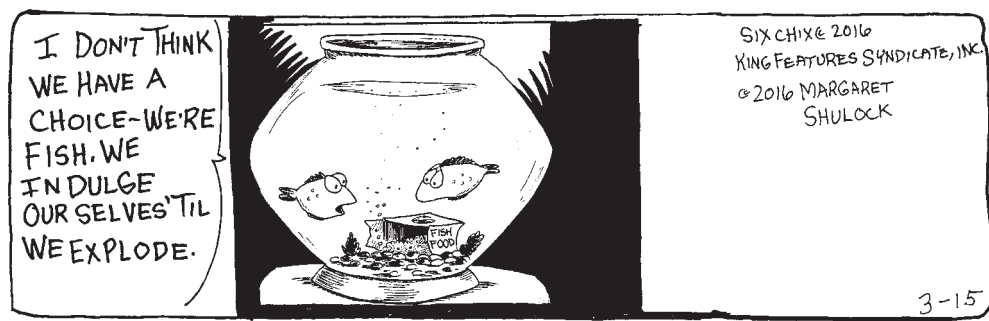
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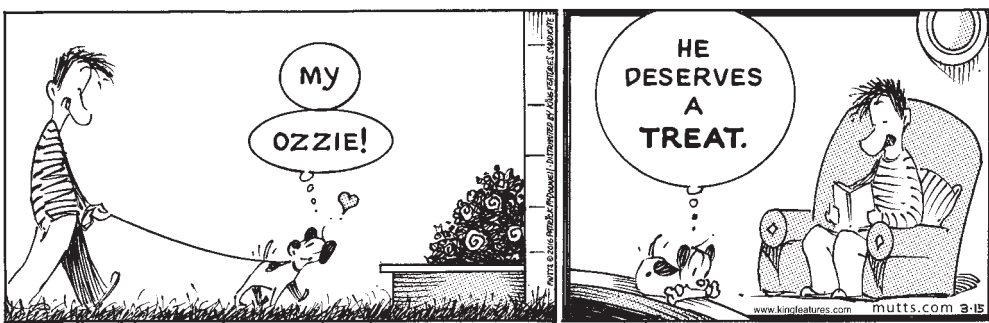
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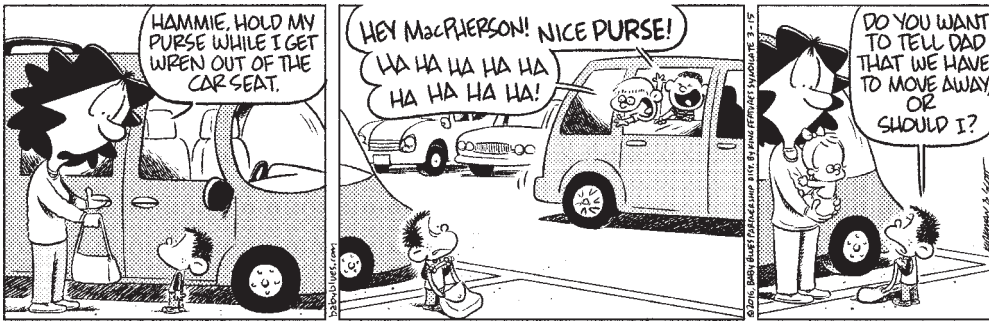
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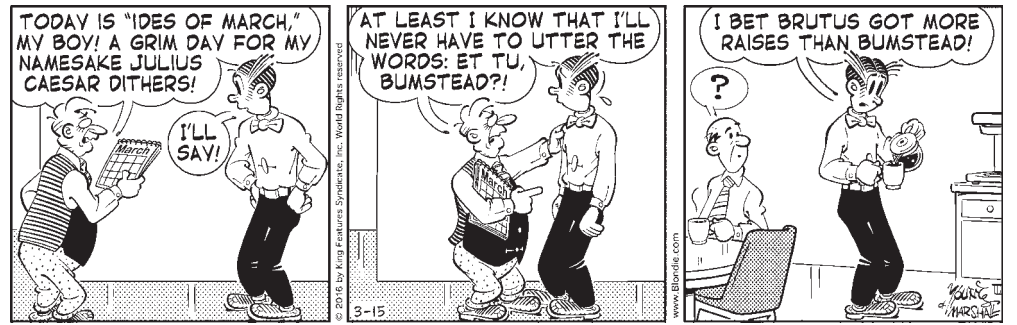
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